AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (original): A device for treating a surface, in particular a textile surface or a leather surface, such as, for instance, the upper surface of leather shoes, with a liquid substance, which device comprises a holder with a reservoir for this substance and with a sponge-like body via which the substance absorbed from the reservoir can be spread on the surface, characterized in that between the reservoir and the sponge-like body there is at least one receiving chamber having an inflow opening communicating with the reservoir, which inflow opening is closed in the condition of rest of the device and can be opened at a movement of the sponge-like body with respect to a plane with which this body is contacted, while from the receiving chamber the substance is absorbed by the sponge-like body with delay.

Claim 2 (original): A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the dosed amount of liquid substance from a receiving chamber, each time after it has been filled via the inflow opening, has a value ranging between 0.01 and 3 ml, preferably between 0.05 and 1 ml, and which is in particular about 0.1 ml.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, characterized in that there is a dosing element extending in the receiving chamber which, at a movement of the sponge-like body with respect to and in contact with the surface to be treated, effects that liquid substance can be absorbed by the sponge-like body.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the receiving chamber is bounded by the dosing element and a surface of the sponge-like body, and the inflow opening can be released by a tilting movement of the dosing element, in particular as a result of a lateral movement of the sponge-like body over the surface to be treated.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the receiving chamber is bounded by the dosing element and the housing of this dosing element and is provided with an outflow opening via which the liquid substance can be supplied to the sponge-like body, the inflow opening being larger than the outflow opening, and the inflow opening being releasable by a movement of the sponge-like body with respect to the surface to be treated.

Claim 6 (original): A device according to claim 5, characterized in that the inflow opening is released by moving the dosing element away from the surface to be treated, in particular as a result of the compression of the sponge-like body on the surface to be treated.

Claim 7 (original): A device according to claim 6, characterized in that the dosing element is movable against spring action in the direction away from the surface to be treated.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A device according to claim 5, characterized in that there is an aeration opening which connects the receiving chamber with a space between the receiving chamber and the sponge-like body.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A device according to claim 5, characterized in that the outflow opening is formed by a gap between the housing of the receiving chamber and the dosing element extending therethrough.

Claim 10 (original): A device according to claim 9, characterized in that the gap is annular.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, characterized in that there are several, in particular two, receiving chambers.

Claim 12 (original): A device according to claim 11, characterized in that the receiving chamber or receiving chambers is/are at least partly arranged in the sponge-like body.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the thickness, density and structure of the sponge-like body is such that between the

outflow of the substance from the outflow opening and the arrival of the substance at the outer surface layer of the sponge-like body there is a time delay corresponding to at least the time between two, preferably at least six, successive times the device is operated.

Claim 14 (original): A device according to claim 13, characterized in that the sponge-like body, before the device is put into use, is impregnated with a liquid substance.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the holder or at least part of the holder and preferably the reservoir or a part thereof is made of a transparent material or is provided with a window.

Claim 16 (original): A device for treating a surface, in particular a textile surface or a leather surface, such as, for instance, the upper surface of leather shoes, with a liquid substance, which device comprises a holder with a reservoir for this substance and with a sponge-like body via which the substance absorbed from the reservoir can be spread on the surface, characterized in that the holder or at least part of the holder and preferably the reservoir or a part thereof is made of a transparent material or is provided with a window.

Claim 17 (original): A device according to claim 16, characterized in that between the reservoir and the sponge-like body there is at least one receiving chamber with an inflow opening communicating with the reservoir, which inflow opening is closed in the condition of rest of the device and can be opened at a movement of the sponge-like body with respect to a surface with which this body is contacted, while from the receiving chamber the substance is absorbed by the sponge-like body with delay.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the viscosity of the substance is, on the one hand, sufficiently low so that the substance can pass the inflow opening and is, on the other hand, sufficiently high so that the substance does not leak from the sponge-like body when no force is exerted thereon.

Claim 19 (original): A device according to claim 18, characterized in that after the outflow from the receiving chamber the substance is subjected to a change of viscosity.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A device according to claim 18, characterized in that the viscosity of the substance ranges between 500 and 20,000 mm^2sec^1, in particular between 500 and 9,000 mm^2sec^1.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A device according to claim 18, characterized in that the substance contains an active component having a relatively high viscosity, preferably greater than 5,000 mm^2sec^1, in particular greater than 10,000 mm^2sec^1, and an auxiliary component having a relatively low viscosity, preferably less than 5,000 mm^2sec^1, in particular less than 2,000 mm^2sec^1.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A device according to claim 18, characterized in that the substance in the reservoir for treating a leather surface, such as, for instance, the upper surface of leather shoes, comprises at least one first component imparting a shine to the leather as well as at least one second component possessing properties for spreading the substance over the leather surface.

Claim 23 (original): A device for treating a surface, in particular a leather surface, such as, for instance, the upper surface of leather shoes, with a liquid substance, which device comprises a holder with a reservoir for this substance and with a sponge-like body via which the substance absorbed from the reservoir can be spread on the surface, characterized in that the substance comprises at least one first component imparting a shine to the leather as well as at least one second component possessing properties for spreading the substance over the leather surface.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, characterized in that the first component consists of a polydimethyl silicone having a relatively high viscosity, preferably greater than 5,000 mm^2sec^1, in particular greater than 10,000 mm^2sec^1, and the second component consists of polydimethyl silicone, which may or may not be aminofunctional, having a relatively low viscosity, preferably less than 5,000 mm^2sec^1, in particular less than 2,000 mm^2sec^1.

Claim 25 (original): A device according to claim 24, characterized in that as third component a non-reactive aminofunctional polydimethyl silicone is added to the substance.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, characterized in that a pigment, in particular a water-dispersible pigment, is provided in the sponge-like body, at the bottom of the space in the sponge-like body where a receiving chamber is located, or in a receiving chamber itself.

Claim 27 (original): A device according to claim 26, characterized in that the pigment is transported by the substance from the reservoir to the outer surface layer of the sponge-like body.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, characterized in that the pigment is dispersed in the substance contained in the reservoir.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, characterized in that a pigment dispersed in a polar solvent, such as an alcohol or an ether, in particular a glycol ether, or a coloring agent dissolved therein is added to the substance in the reservoir.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, characterized in that a pigment dispersed in a non-polar solvent, such as white spirits, or a coloring agent dissolved therein is added to the substance in the reservoir.